

The Call to Leadership

Equipping and Empowering Men

Come back and quietly trust in me. Then you will be strong and secure.... The Lord is compassionate, and when you cry to him for help, he will answer you. The Lord will make you go through hard times, but he himself will be there to teach you, and you will not have to search for him anymore. If you wander off the road to the right or the left, you will hear his voice behind you saying, "Here is the road. Follow it." (Isa. 30:15,19-21)

1. Following the Father: The roots of leadership

Jesus said to him, "Follow me." (Matt. 9:9)

A Christian leader must know what Father God is doing and inspire others to join Him. Every boy naturally wants to be like his daddy, and learns that sense of manly direction by bonding with his father. No human father, however, is perfect, so every son is in some way wounded and even misled by his dad. Jesus came to heal this father-wound in all men and restore us to genuine manhood—so you can honor your father and embrace your own manhood. If you don't let Jesus do this, you won't value your manhood enough to learn godly leadership; it'll be hard for you to follow a God called Father, much less inspire other men to do so.

2. Winning a Woman's Heart: Leadership in marriage

Husbands, love your wives.... Ephes. 5:25

For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Gen. 2:24NIV

Jesus came to deliver men from religion into trusting relationship as sons of Father God. A man who has not left his father and mother as God intends will remain trapped in boyhood and fear the woman. "God ordains the man as the leader of the woman," he thinks, "so it's my wife's job to do what I say." A son of the Father, however, loves the woman and thinks, "If my Father has ordained me to lead my wife, He will develop in me the qualities which will inspire her to follow me." Here's how He can do that.

3. Earning a Child's Trust: Leading as a Father

Fathers, do not provoke your children into anger by coming down hard on them. Instead, take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master. Ephes 6:4 TEV,TMB

Children are born trusting; you have to teach a child to distrust. A man who was not valued and protected as a boy fears children as a threat to his authority. He thinks, "God ordains a father to be the leader of his children, therefore my children must follow me or be punished." A son of the Father, however, recognizes in children the innocence Jesus died to restore in us all. He therefore

wants to lead his child as Jesus leads himself. He thinks, “If Father God has ordained me to lead my children, He will develop in me the qualities which will inspire them to follow me.” Here’s how He can do that.

4) Learning faith amid a savage world: The Heart of a Kingdom Leader

(Sunday morning)

(The Lord said to Samuel), “Go to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have decided on one of his sons to be king.”... When Samuel arrived (at Jesse’s house) and saw Eliab (the tallest son), he thought, “Surely this is the one God has chosen.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Pay no attention to his appearance or his stature.... For a man sees only what is visible, but the Lord sees into the heart.” 1 Sam. 16:1,6,7 TEV/Jewish Publication Society

Some years ago, a plane carrying a Christian college athletic team, their families, supporters, and staff, crashed in the remote and freezing Andes mountains with 45 people aboard. (see *Miracle in the Andes*, by Nando Parrado). When the team captain’s neatly ordered religion fails him amid cannibalism, blizzards, and canceled search efforts, an otherwise minor player steps up and to everyone’s surprise—including his own—leads the 16 survivors to safety. This inspiring yet challenging story portrays how a dangerously unpredictable world unmasks religious presumption—and how a raw but faithful leader can save lives.